

SUMMER 2003

CROSSROADS

New Hampshire Department of Corrections Victim Services Office

“Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime”



Phil Stanley, Commissioner
NH Department of Corrections

From the Commissioner

The NH Department of Corrections is a state agency responsible for New Hampshire's prisons and adult probation-parole services. We also recognize our role in taking initiative in addressing crime victims' concerns. Our hope is “*Crossroads*” will offer meaningful information for people we serve, and those with whom we work in promoting safe communities. Specifically, “*Crossroads*” provides pragmatic accounts of crime victims' issues, justice system and correctional responses to crime, and helpful resources for crime victims and survivors. As the NH Department of Corrections continues to improve its efforts in public safety and offender change, I urge readers to stay connected with New Hampshire's ongoing efforts in advancing safety and respect for victims of crime.

Phil Stanley

Welcome to *CROSSROADS*

By Peter Michaud

The Department's Victim Services Office strives to continuously improve assistance and support for crime victims and survivors. Collaboration with community and statewide stakeholders promotes responsiveness to the interests of victims as we fulfill our public safety responsibilities. With respect for the rights and experiences of victims and survivors, we are committed to keeping interested citizens informed, involved, and safe.

“*Crossroads*” is published three times each year, during the Spring, Summer, and Autumn seasons. A crossroad is a crucial point, especially where a decision must be made. Many people have a stake in a successful justice system. During the system's corrections phase, there is a crossroad – an opportunity where interested victims, offenders, and other citizens of New Hampshire may move forward in the aftermath of crime. The NH Department of Corrections strives to support crime victims and promote offender change in safe

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Making Apologies—Helpful or Hurtful?	2
AmeriCorps: Assisting Crime Victims in New Hampshire	2
Victims & Family Members	3
Learning the Impact	5
Sexual Assault—The Real Impact	6
Restitution is Responsibility	6
Contact “ <i>Crossroads</i> ”	9



NH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS VICTIM SERVICES

- * Notification of Offender Status
- * Safety Planning
- * Parole Hearing Support
- * Victim-Offender Dialogue
- * Prison Tours
- * Information & Outreach
- * Victim Services Liaisons
- * IMPACT Classes

Welcome to **CROSSROADS** (Continued from page 1)

settings. We do so through well-trained professional staff and community partnerships, including volunteers.

“**Crossroads**” is an opportunity for people to share and learn how corrections and others strive to improve responses to crime. Each edition of “**Crossroads**” will address several core themes:

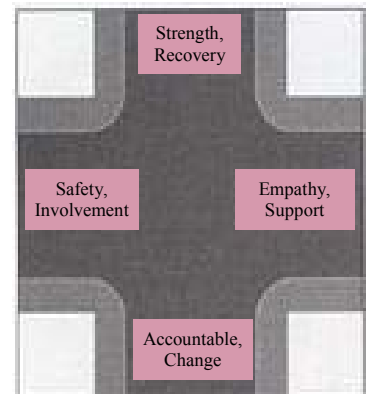
- * Understanding the impacts of crime on victims, families and communities
- * Victims rights & “system” responses
- * Family violence
- * Offender change – the victim’s view

Thanks to the many people contributing to

“**Crossroads**” and to the successes of the justice system. In particular, we thank the many crime victims and survivors from whom we learn every day how best to improve our response to their needs and to crime in New Hampshire.

Peter Michaud is the Victim Services Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. He may be reached at (603) 271-1937 or pmichaud@nhdoc.state.nh.us.

“Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime”
www.state.nh.us/doc



Making Apologies: HELPFUL OR HURTFUL ?

By Karen Hebert

“*I’m sorry.*” The phrase has such power, and in so many ways. Apologizing for one’s wrongdoing is an acceptable expression to acknowledge one said or did something that was wrong, and actually feels remorseful. In a courtroom, we sometimes hear offenders apologize for their actions. They apologize to the court, to the victim, to their own family and friends, or to society in general. Or, they are often just sorry they committed such an act.

But, are apologies in court appropriate? Should apologies be court-ordered? Whom do

they really help? How can one tell if an apology is really genuine?

Our criminal justice system, some would argue, is the best in the world. It has been designed to support the accused. The Constitution and Rules of Evidence weigh in favor of the offender, and rightfully so. Upon a conviction, offenders typically receive a sentence that includes components of punishment, rehabilitation and deterrence. It is hoped that the sentence received will prevent

(Continued on page 3)

“How can one tell if an apology is really genuine?”

AmeriCorps: Assisting Crime Victims in New Hampshire

By Jacqlyn Kelley

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in public safety, education, health, and the environment. During 2002-03, New Hampshire’s 160 AmeriCorps members serve in ten different programs, including AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program (AVAP).

This year, the NH Department of Corrections, has partnered with AVAP to improve support for crime victims whose offenders are on probation or parole with the Department’s Manchester District Office. Victim services provided include outreach and support, crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, referral services, and information about offender probation status or re-entry to the community from prison.

(Continued on page 5)

“... I wanted to do community service.”

Apologies (continued from p. 2)

repetition of the criminal activity, as this is not a business that wants repeat customers.

Over the years, sentencing has become creative. Judges have wide latitude when structuring a sentence that is appropriate for each offender. Alternative sentences and conditional terms seem to be effective and favored by system stakeholders, as well as the general public. Numerous conditions can be written into sentences to expand beyond the typical counseling or locking someone up and throwing away the key. Conditions such as community service or intensive treatment programs in prison can be included to encourage the offender to change during a sentence. Making an apology for committing the crime can be a condition. Acknowledging the harm caused and showing remorse for such action can go a long way for a convicted offender, and gives the system some confidence that this offender will successfully remain crime-free. When the offender admits guilt, we tend to believe that he or she will likely achieve other rehabilitative goals set out in the sentence, compared to one who denies wrongdoing. Apologies are a positive step for the convicted offender, and are often supported by judges, prosecutors and the Department of Corrections.

Is It Sincere?

Crime victims can benefit tremendously from an apology. Many victims have the same goal as other stakeholders in the system: to see that the offender doesn't re-offend. Some victims

have the need to feel vindicated, and thus the offender's admittance of guilt is a welcome relief. Hearing remorse from an offender can diminish anger and other strong negative emotions felt by victims. According to some victim advocates, crime victims who receive a sincere apology are more satisfied with the overall outcome of their case, compared to those victims who never receive an apology. It seems logical and conclusive that an apology, while positive for the offender, is also positive for the victim. While offender apologies can have a positive affect for some victims, this is a general presumption, and other factors need to be considered.

When offenders apologize, victims pay great attention to the actual words chosen by the offender. The offender's tone of voice, timing, location and method of apology are also important considerations. These factors have a significant affect on how the apology is perceived by the victim. An essential part of any true apology is the offender's understanding of the harm caused and it's impact on the victim. Offenders who want to apologize may not know enough about the impact of their crime. They may not have learned or considered what possible effects their crime has had upon the victim, if they realize anything at all. These offenders are not ready to truly apologize.

Apologies before their time can be meaningless to a victim, and in some cases offensive.

(Continued on page 4)

"When offenders apologize, victims pay great attention to the actual words chosen by the offender."



Victims & Family Members By A Mother Who Thanks You for Reading

Do they have a voice? We trust so many people in our lives with our children! We need to tell our children they can tell us anything and we will listen and take steps to enforce anything wrong that has happened to them. Many in our society do not seem to care what happens to children after the assault on them. We try and give them counseling. They want to trust people again and it's really hard to when you're dealing with sex offenders that only

get a little time in prison. They destroy our lives so much yet they often do not know how badly they have turned the victims and families upside down.

My daughter had such severe nightmares that I was up with her trying to calm her down. This goes on for countless nights. You are put in the middle of choosing your job over your child's well-being until eventu-

(Continued on page 6)

"This has helped allot to be able to write out my feelings."

Apologies (continued from p. 3)

Consider the offender who may be truly remorseful, but only talks about what he or she has lost as a result of the crime. This individual may not be capable of thinking about harmful affects upon anyone but him or her own self. Some offenders believe they are helping the victim by describing that they have suffered too, and therefore understand how the victim feels. Victims' reactions to this type of apology are typically negative and only add to the harm already done by the crime. Apologies are better received when offenders acknowledge and try to imagine the harm and effects they caused *the victim*, not themselves. It takes some necessary effort on their part to put themselves in the victims' place.

"Apologies are better received when offenders acknowledge and try to imagine the harm and effects they caused the victim, not themselves."

Motivation

Consider an in-court apology, versus an out-of-court apology. How genuine is an apology when it is made during the offender's sentencing hearing? Is the offender apologizing because he is truly remorseful to the victim for the harm caused, or is he stating hollow words to look better before the judge? Perhaps he is stating he's sorry because he got caught and is sorry that his life has now changed and may be suffering. Perhaps the apology is a combination of these. How does one gauge this? It seems that the motivation behind an apology before the judge may always be scrutinized. Certainly, if the apology is ordered by the court, the likelihood of it being genuine may be minimal at best, unless it was the offender's idea in the first place. Some may think his attorney "told" him to do it. An apology to a victim made separate and outside of court proceedings would seem to reduce the perception, or reality, of self-serving motivations.

The type of offender is also a factor. Consider the apology of a burglar versus the apology of a sex offender. Words from sex offenders, a population known to be manipulative, may carry inappropriate connotations, known only to themselves or the victim. What about offenders who have a history of multiple convictions? Analysis of apologies from different types of offenders is for another article, but something worth considering.

Some argue that an apology, even a weak one, is a positive step for the offender towards changing behavior. After all, that is the goal. Counselors and judges may say it is

progress for the offender when that is "the best he can do." But the justice system, including corrections, has a duty to consider those who were hurt by the crime. If an apology is going to offend or further harm the victim, why include this as a condition at the expense of the victim? It is not always helpful, and can even be very harmful, when the system assumes an apology is a good thing.

Victims Know

If an apology is going to be made, an inquiry should be made to the victim in advance whether an apology is wanted. If so, it can make considerable difference to the victim to learn in advance as much information as possible about when, where, what will be said, and who's idea it was. The factors that the victim takes into account about an apology need to be considered by prosecutors, advocates, judges and corrections staff. It's small consideration to give for something that can make a large difference in the victims' satisfaction with the justice process.

Karen Hebert is Director of Carroll County Victim/Witness Assistance for the Carroll County (NH) Attorney's Office. She may be reached at (603) 539-7476 or khebert@ncia.net.

As a crime victim, you have a right to:

- * Fairness & Respect
- * Participation & Input
- * Information
- * Reasonable Protection, Confidentiality
- * Restitution, Compensation



AmeriCorps (continued from page 2)

Along with its new partnership with the NH Department of Corrections, AVAP has long worked with other agencies across the state, including domestic violence crisis centers, police departments, and prosecutor offices. Three NH AmeriCorps members who are completing their year of national service recently discussed why they chose to dedicate a whole year to national service working with victims of violence.

Vicki is a crisis center advocate and a survivor. At A Safe Place (Portsmouth, NH) she provides court advocacy, hospital accompaniments, crisis intervention, and shelter services to victims of domestic violence. She has always wanted to help other survivors. She eloquently notes she chose this type of national service, as opposed to other types, because as a survivor it was “a way for me to heal in a way that I hadn’t before”. Vicki has shown us that by empowering other victims, it is possible to empower ourselves; by serving our communities, we can become better people.

Her most memorable moment this year was helping a victim of domestic violence and seeing her leave an abusive partner. In her own words, “This woman went through everything and made it.” Vicki has seen many faces of domestic violence in her office and at the shelter. Her AVAP position positively impacts the crisis center’s ability to support victims of violence. After this year of national service, she hopes to continue her work by doing a second year of service and by continuing her education, possibly in nursing.



W
W
W
.a
v
a
p
l
.o
r
g



Emily is a victim advocate serving at Voices Against Violence (Plymouth, NH). She provides direct service to victims in the community. She voices her hopes that there continues to be capacity for direct service in New Hampshire because there is strong need in our communities. She decided to serve this program because there were no other programs like it in her community. She observes, “AVAP is a unique program in organization and structure.” She hopes to continue the work by becoming a lawyer and fighting for new legislation as she “sees so many problems with the laws and victims’ access” in our legal system.

Krista works with the Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP) on campus at the University of New Hampshire. She provides student outreach, education, and direct victim services. She organized Take Back the Night and Clothesline Projects. Krista says, “I didn’t want to go back to school right away, I wanted to do community service.” Working with victims of violence has “completely changed my life. I’ve met some amazing people.” She would like to do a second year of national service. Why do a second year? As Krista states about her own experience serving victims, “Completely invaluable.”

To learn more about NH AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program, please contact info@avap1.org, or call (603) 224-6466.

Jacqlyn Kelley is AmeriCorps Victim Advocate at the NH Department of Corrections Manchester District Office. She may be reached at (603) 668-0432.

Learning THE IMPACT OF CRIME

By Laura Paquette

During summer months, most of us look forward to getting out and doing “things” – inside or outside, here or there. We do things or go places without a second thought. We take for granted our freedom of choice and never think about how crime impacts so many people, actually robbing them of their basic human rights. The irony is that it’s not the actual crime event alone that hurts the victims, but the impact it has left on their lives.

I teach “Victim **IMPACT**” to inmates at Laconia, NH. It has been an eye opener to me in many ways. I knew that by studying the curriculum material, I could pass along knowledge to the residents at the NH Department of Corrections Lakes Region Facility. What I hadn’t known was the shocking responses I would get from some inmates who had committed the crimes in the first place.

One segment of Victim **IMPACT** is a class on robbery. One of the scenarios discussed involves an elderly woman going to

(Continued on page 10)

Family Members (Continued from page 3)

ally you lose your job. My daughter has had to live a secluded life after this. We had to move because of a lot of rumors. She is still trying to finish school at home. Self-esteem issues about her weight got to her. Everyday life is really hard when you're not yourself anymore.

This so called offender took my daughter away and that can never come back the way it was before this crime took place. Now, you become numb all over and try to go on with your life. You try to fit in where you don't belong. It goes on and on. The sentence some people get is very short. Many plea bargain and only serve part of their sentence. We are sentenced to life on death row waiting to die, that is what the victims and family members have to go through.

I am a mother that has gone through much more than what God wants us to go through. I have been through a war where it feels like an open heart transplant and my old heart has stopped beating and now I must take the new heart and start beating for my daughter and live on and try to make a difference in the world we live in. There is still too much to do in this world.

This has helped allot to be able to write out my feelings. Thank you for reading.

Sexual Assault – The Real Impact

By Michelle Evans

Living in a culture of sound bites and sensationalized news, understanding the impact of crime on victims and their families is a difficult task. Attitudes in society are frequently shaped by local culture, and unfortunately, we live in a culture that can be quick to question, and even blame, victims of sexual assault. Common victim blaming statements include, "She probably just changed her mind," "She is out to ruin his reputation," "I wouldn't have worn that or drank that much," or "She is only saying she was raped so people won't think she cheated on her boyfriend." Many people do not take into account that the vast majority (98% according to FBI crime statistics) of sexual assault victims do not lie about the assault. Blaming statements do not take into account the huge impact reporting a sexual assault has on a victim's life.

The following story is a story of a college student whose life was dramatically changed after deciding to report the man who raped her. This victim's perspective is that no person in her right mind would choose to go through the process of reporting a crime, submitting evidence, and going to court just to ruin somebody's reputation. This story is intended to allow people to see what victims actually go through, and not just what is reported in the local newspaper. Jamie's story is real, with few changes to protect what is left of her privacy.

Jamie is a 19-year-old college student whose life was put on hold due to a sexual assault. Jamie had struggled through high school with an abusive relationship with an ex-boyfriend. Yet she managed to graduate on time and

(Continued on page 7)

Restitution Is Responsibility

By Janet Conklin

As a member of the Department of Corrections working with collection matters, one is always faced with both sides of probation & parole cases.

The defendant comes into the district office after being sentenced by the court. For restitution and other financial obligations, a collection case is set up and a payment plan is established. The defendant is reminded to report all address changes or circumstances mak-

ing him or her unable to stick to the payment plan. Of course, one hears every story in the book from some offenders. They may say that they are broke, perhaps due to eviction, or a family member is ill and needs money, or they haven't got a job, but they're looking, etc., etc., etc. The bottom line is many seem to shirk responsibility for the financial harm they caused upon the victim. It seems avoiding responsibility is a reason many are in this predicament in the first place. Life is never dull when dealing with people and their money.

Crime victims on the other hand, are a special kind of people. They are often justifiably angry, hurt, scared,

(Continued on page 7)

Restitution (Continued from page 6)

and sometimes feel lost in the system. One role of case technicians with the NH Department of Corrections is to see that crime victims duly receive their restitution money on a regular basis.

We listen to their stories, hear their complaints, and remind ourselves to treat them with dignity and respect. The last thing they need is to be unintentionally “re-victimized” by the words or actions of our professional staff. The previous department-wide problems with the computer system were a nightmare. For case technicians and other corrections staff, angry

calls from crime victims were overwhelming at times.

With the new collection system in place, and restitution checks being disbursed on a regular basis, the complaints are rolling back to a minimum, and life in the Division of Field Services is slowly returning to normal....

Janet Conklin is a case technician with the NH Department of Corrections, Claremont and Keene District Offices. She may be reached at (603) 542-2470 or jconklin@nhdoc.state.nh.us.

Restitution is money or service provided by the offender to compensate a victim for economic loss, or to compensate any collateral source subrogated to the rights of the victim. (NH RSA 651:62)

Sexual Assault (Continued from page 6)

get into college. Everything was going great for Jamie during her first year in college. She remained on the dean's list with a 3.8 grade point average. She had many friends, including her best friend from high school, Joy, with whom she had managed to stay in touch. Joy lived with her long-term boyfriend, Pete, about an hour away from Jamie's school. Despite this long distance friendship, Jamie still managed to visit Joy at least once a week. Additionally, Joy and Pete would often visit Jamie on the weekends at her school. Everything seemed to be going great for Jamie until a terrible thing happened.

During one weekend visit by Joy and Pete, they decided to buy alcohol. The three of them brought the alcohol to a party in another student's dorm room. At the party, Jamie drank a little too much. Thinking she was going to get sick, Jamie decided it was time to go back to her room. Jamie told Joy and Pete that she was going to bed and that she

would keep the door unlocked for Joy and Pete so they could get in when they decided to call it a night. When Jamie got to her room, she felt sick. She decided to lie down and try to sleep it off. Jamie had been sleeping no longer than twenty minutes when she woke up with Pete on top of her. Joy was no where to be seen. At first Jamie did not know what was going on. She asked Pete what he was doing but he did not respond. Jamie attempted to get up, but Pete threw her back down on the bed. Jamie pleaded with him to stop, but all he could say is, “You know you want this.” Jamie continued to fight, but between the alcohol and her small size, she was no match for Pete. After the rape, Pete apologized, got up, and then exited the room. Many think this was the worst part of Jamie's ordeal. In reality, this was just the beginning.

The morning after the assault, Jamie woke up confused and in pain. Not only was she bleeding, but she was also experiencing severe abdominal cramping. To her surprise, there was a note on her desk from Joy saying that she and her boyfriend had left earlier while Jamie was sleeping. Jamie did not know what to do. She was afraid that if she called the police and reported the crime, she might lose her best friend. At the same time, however, she was very angry with Pete and did not want him to get away with what he had done. Jamie decided that she at least needed to go to the hospital for the pain and bleeding.

“Jamie told Joy that she had something to tell her that was not going to be easy.”

Jamie had never known anyone who had been raped and did not know what to expect at the hospital. Once she got

(Continued on page 8)

Sexual Assault (Continued from page 7)

there, she was informed that the doctor was going to use “a rape kit” to collect evidence in case she decided to press charges. Initially, Jamie had no idea what the rape kit entailed and she was not offered the option of having an advocate from a local crisis center with her for support. When the exam began, she was asked to stand on top of a white paper-like sheet and remove all her clothing. She was forced to do this in front of the doctor and nurse. After this part of the exam, the doctor had her lie on the table so they could begin collecting evidence from her body. The first thing the doctor did was run a comb through every hair on Jamie’s body. If this wasn’t invasive enough, she was then asked to put her feet in stirrups so they could collect evidence from her vagina and anus. The doctor noticed that Jamie’s vagina was very swollen and had several cuts that were bleeding. Jamie was in a considerable amount of pain, and the doctor still had to use prongs to examine the inside of her vagina. The rape kit exam took a total of 2 hours. During this time, Jamie was not only in pain, but also felt like her body was being violated once again. At the conclusion of the exam, the doctor tried to convince Jamie to press charges. Jamie decided to call the police and report the assault. The police set up an appointment for Jamie to meet with them at the prosecutor’s office on Monday. Jamie knew that she would have to tell Joy before this got out to the public.

Of all the things that have happened to Jamie thus far, nothing compared to the fear she felt of losing her best friend. On Sunday Jamie convinced Joy to meet her for lunch. At this time, Jamie planned on telling Joy what had happened. When they got to the restaurant, Jamie did not feel like eating. Jamie told Joy that she had something to tell her that was not going to be easy. The two girls decided to sit on a bench outside the restaurant to talk. After several minutes of silence, Jamie finally revealed to Joy what had happened. Joy’s initial reaction was that Jamie was lying. Joy said that there was no way her boyfriend would have done this. After Jamie began crying hysterically, Joy began to believe that what she was saying was true. Jamie made Joy swear she would not say anything to Pete until the police arrested him. Joy agreed and the two girls proceeded home.

Jamie’s interview with the police was smack in the middle of her Monday morning classes. She called the police to see if they could reschedule for after class, but they said they could not. After this initial interview, the police frequently visited Jamie to collect evidence. Not only was this inconvenient, but then she had to explain to all her neighboring classmates why the police kept coming to her dorm room. It took two weeks before Joy’s boyfriend was arrested. During this two-week period, Jamie received several messages on her answer machine from Pete threatening to hurt her if she reported the rape.

This frightened Jamie so much that she slept with a shovel against her door, for fear that Pete would find out she was pressing charges and come after her. Despite all that had happened and the fear she was living, Jamie was determined not to fall behind in school. This was very difficult however, seeing the police would schedule a meeting with her at least once a week, which was always during one of her classes. After Pete was finally arrested and held in jail, the police seemed to leave Jamie alone for a

“The thought of having to go in front of a court and tell her story scared Jamie to death.”

while. Several months passed before Jamie received a letter in the mail saying that a court date had been set for the case to go to trial. The thought of having to go in front of a court and tell her story scared Jamie to death. How was she ever going to face Pete and not break down in tears?

The court date came sooner than Jamie would have liked. The morning of the trial, the judge ordered the jury to view Jamie’s dorm room. Pete was allowed to accompany the jury and view the room. Jamie however was not. All of Jamie’s neighboring classmates observed as 12 unknown people journeyed through the dorm hallways and into her room. At the courthouse, Jamie was harassed by the defendant’s family, who decided it would be funny to call her “slut, whore, and tramp” in the court parking lot. After several warnings from the judge, the defendant’s family finally backed off. During the trial, Jamie was put on the stand for six hours. After telling her story, she was then cross examined by the defendant’s lawyer. Not only did the defense attorney accuse Jamie of having consensual sex with her best friend’s boyfriend, but she also said that Jamie was into “rough sex,” which explained why her vagina was all cut up at the hospital. After several hours of defending her story as if she were the defendant, Jamie was finally able to sit down and wait for the jury to come to a decision. The jury only deliberated for 1 hour before they came back with a guilty verdict. The months in which Jamie’s life had been put on hold finally seemed to be worth it. Today, Jamie still fears that her assailant’s family may come after her for revenge. Although Joy’s boyfriend is serving a 15-year sentence, his family is not.

The newspaper account of Pete’s conviction did not include anything about what the past months had been like for Jamie. The newspaper article did point

(Continued on page 9)

Learning The Impact (continued from p. 5)

the bank to cash her Social Security check. When she exits the bank, someone pushes her to the ground and steals her purse. I ask the inmate students what impact the crime has on this woman. Some recent answers were, "She's probably got 19 more pocketbooks at home, no big deal," "SS checks are insured, she'll get another one," and the best one, "She should know better and get direct deposit!"

With the **IMPACT** program, I was able to teach these men the many physical, emotional and financial impacts on the person victimized. For example, we discussed that a woman carries "everything" in her purse: her medication, one-of-a-kind photographs, insurance cards, credit cards, keys to everything, her make-up, etc. People who stole the purse took the money and credit cards and tossed the rest. To her, she feels she's lost everything.

Being pushed to the ground not only terrorized her but also could have broken her bones. Now she's afraid to leave her home or live alone. She must get her check replaced before she can get her medication refilled, cancel her credit cards and hope that she has the negatives for her precious photographs.

Does it stop there? No. Her family is also effected. How? If this woman was physically hurt, someone must care for her. If she is afraid to leave her home, who will do all of the things she used to do herself? It goes on and on.

Crimes leave their mark on all of us, sometimes in ways we don't even think about, whether we were directly involved or not. Thankfully, a program such as Victim **IMPACT** can reach some of the perpetrators of crime and initiate some change.



Laura Paquette is a Corrections Counselor - Case Manager with the NH Department of Corrections, Lakes Region Facility. She may be reached at (603) 528-9222 or lpauquette2@nhdoc.state.nh.us.

Sexual Assault (Continued from page 8)

out personal details such as, she had been drinking that night, that she had sex with her boyfriend earlier that week, that the defense said she made it all up to cover up that she had consensual sex with Pete.

Jamie hopes to show that there is a real life behind every newspaper article. All too often, we blame crime victims for situations that are completely out of their control. Next time you hear a person say that a woman is lying to the police about an alleged sexual assault, remember what reporting an assault actually entails. A victim does not just go to the police station, file a report, and then the perpetrator goes to jail. Rather, there is a long process that victims must go through that not only affects their lives, but the lives of their family and loved ones. Jamie's story is positive in that the defendant was found guilty and Jamie has moved on with her life. Jamie is a true survivor. She has since graduated from college, is planning on attending law school, became engaged to a great guy, and has even gone on to help others as a crisis center victim advocate. It must not be forgotten that rape is a very difficult crime to prosecute and not all defendants are found guilty. Jamie still finds it hard to believe that any person would lie and go through something like this for the sake of just "ruining somebody's reputation."

Michelle Evans is an advocate with Sexual Assault Support Services, Portsmouth, NH. She may be reached at (603) 436-4107 or mevans@sassnh.org.

Receive **Crossroads** by E-Mail !

The next edition of **Crossroads** will be published during Autumn 2003.

**** An electronic version is available by e-mail ****

To submit comments or request **Crossroads** by e-mail, please contact the Victim Services Office at [**vrussell@nhdoc.state.nh.us**](mailto:vrussell@nhdoc.state.nh.us)



Victim Services

New Hampshire Department of Corrections
Victim Services Office
P.O. Box 1806
Concord, NH 03302-1806
Phone: 603-271-1937 or 603-271-7351
or 1-800-479-0688 Ext. 7351 (in-state only)
Fax: 603-271-5639
Email: pmichaud@nhdoc.state.nh.us
vrussell@nhdoc.state.nh.us

Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STATE.NH.US/DOC

DID YOU KNOW...?



Only about half of violent crimes committed against persons age 12 or older were reported to the police. (Source: National Crime Victimization Survey)

Violent crime was most often *not* reported to police because it was deemed a “private/personal matter,” was considered “not important enough,” or because it was “reported to another official.” (Source: National Crime Victimization Survey)

All levels of government combined spent \$147 billion for police protection, corrections, and judicial and legal activities in 1999. (Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice)

The percentage of drunk drivers is highest at ages 21-24 (27 percent), followed by 25-29 (25 percent), 30-34 (23 percent), and 35-39 (23 percent). (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2002)

Persons ages 12 to 19 experience crime victimization at rates significantly higher than other age groups (Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice)



“Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime”